manure seeds etc., through programmes on Integrated Cereals Development to motivate them to adopt improved crop production technology. Besides, for effective transfer of newly developed technology incentives are also being provided for organisation of field demonstrations and farmers trainings. These incentives are primarly focused on increasing productivity in low productivity areas. In addition, minimum support prices are also being revised periodically to provide incentives to the farmers to invest more and increase their rice production.

There is no proposal with the Government of India to double rice production in Orissa by 2000 AD. However, keeping in view the necessity to increase foodgrains production to keep pace with the population growth, major emphasis is being given by the Government of India to supplement the efforts of the State Government to increase production and productivity of foodgrains including rice. Incentives are being provided to the farmers for the use of critical inputs like seeds of High Yielding Varieties/Hybrids, improved farm implements, soil ameliorants, green

Statement

Production of rice in major rice growing States during the last three years (1994-95 to 1996-97)

(Production in Lakh Tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Likely)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	92.77	91.95	99.01
2.	Assam	33.09	33.90	34.69
3.	Bihar	62.98	69.11	72.38
4.	Gujarat	9.42	8.27	9.46
5.	Haryana	22.27	18.60	24.66
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.12	1.11	1.40
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.85	5.08	6.47
8.	Karnataka	31.68	30.19	30.80
9.	Kerala	9.75	9.32	8.51
10.	Madhya Pradesh	64.63	57.05	62.01
11.	Maharashtra	23.97	25.63	26.12
12.	Orissa	63.53	62.26	43.25
13.	Punjab	77.03	67.68	73.38
14.	Rajasthan	1.73	1.18	1.74
15.	Tamil Nadu	75.63	75.63	60.61
16.	Uttar Pradesh	103.65	104.08	117.68
17.	West Bengal	122.36	118.87	116.95
18.	Others	16.68	16.27	16.28
	All India	818.14	796.18	805.40

Misuse of staff car for private purposes

*256. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the staff cars of subordinate/attached offices of the Department of Agriculture ad Cooperation are being used for private purposes by senior Officers of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the number of such vehicles being used by the officers of the Ministry and the names and designations of these Officers;

(c) whether these Officers are entitled for private use of these vehicles;

(d) if not, what action Government have taken or propose to take to recover the cost of unauthorised use of these vehicles from the concerned Officers; and

(e) how much expenditure has been incurred on POL and maintenance of these vehicles during the past one year, vehicle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise. However, it may be mentioned that as per Rules, staff cars when not required for official journey can be used occasionally on non-duty journeys on payment basis at the prescribed rate. Besides, officers of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India and above and Chief executives of autonomous bodies etc. are also allowed use of staff cars for private purposes upto a distance of 500 Kms. per month on payment of the prescribed charges.

Operation of Calcutta Metro on Sundays

*257. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total number of passengers carried by the Calcutta Metro in each of the years since its inception;

(b) the net earnings of the Metro in 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) whether, in view of the large public demand, it is proposed to operate the Metro on Sundays too?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a)

Year	Number of passengers carried by Calcutta Metro
1984-85	14,65,520
1985-86	27,57,465
1986-87	98,41,256
1987-88	1,58,05,920
1988-89	1,69,76,135
1989-90	1,97,74,548
1990-91	2,26,41,268
1991-92	2,41,44,084
1992-93	1,54,56,582
1993-94	1,58,61,882
1994-95	1,94,86,481
1995-96	4,32,76,008
1996-97	6,25,86,502
1997-98 (upto June'97)	1,57,37,925

(b) Net earnings of the Metro:

1995-96 (–) Rs. 13.78 crore (loss)
1996-97 (–) Rs. 15.64 crore (loss)

(c) Calcutta Metro is operated on Sundays also. However, in veiw of less traffic, as compared to other week days, and also for providing maintenance blocks, the commercial service period on Sundays is from 1500 hrs. to 2200 hrs. with the last train leaving from either direction at 2120 hrs.

Opening of "Ability Schools" in Delhi

*258. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Ability Schools" are proposed to be opened in Delhi in the near future;

(b) if so, the objectives for such project with highlights of such schools in comparison to Sarvodaya Vidyalayas already functioning;